



# Server Responsibility

## Suggestions for Responsible Hospitality

**Maryland has common law that requires servers/sellers to protect an intoxicated person from harming themselves or others. However, as a bartender, server, or seller of alcohol you can be sued individually for your decisions.**

---

Reasonable efforts to prevent intoxication include:

- Offering high-protein foods to patrons to help absorb some of the alcohol and prevent it from entering into the blood stream.
- Serving a glass of water with the first alcohol drink, without asking.
- Training servers to be aware of the alcohol content of different drinks.
- Creating written guidelines for handling intoxicated guests.
- Encouraging servers to cut off alcohol service to someone who has had too much to drink.

- Always checking ID's to ensure no under 21 alcohol service.
- Arranging alternative transportation and/or lodging for guests who may become alcohol impaired.

It is against the law:

- The sale, possession, or consumption of alcohol by minors.
- Selling to or serving alcohol to someone who is intoxicated.